

Ladies, Contraband, and Spies: Women in the Civil War

Questions for Analyzing Text and Ephemera

Answer the following questions as you analyze your primary sources:

Who created the source and why?

Did the recorder have firsthand knowledge of the event?

Was the recorder a neutral party, or did the creator have opinions or interests that might have influenced what was recorded?

What was the recorder's purpose in writing?

Was the source meant to be public or private?

Did the recorder wish to inform or persuade others? (Check the words in the source. The words may tell you whether the recorder was trying to be objective or persuasive.) Did the recorder have reasons to be honest or dishonest?

Was the information recorded during the event, immediately after the event, or after some lapse of time? How large a lapse of time?